CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the American Naturalist:

SIR: At the May meeting, this year, of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, Miss Sarah P. Monks read a note on the "Regeneration of the Body of a Starfish." The brevity of the communication and the inconspicuous place given it in the published *Proceedings* of the meeting are not calculated to assure it the attention it deserves.

I quote from the report: "In studying regeneration in *Phataria* (*Linckia*) *fascialis* she had cut arms at different distances from the disk, and a number of the single rays produced new bodies. The free ray made a new body and the rest of the starfish produced a new ray .... In the photograph of a six-rayed Phataria, the cut ray attached to the body shows a small ray sprouting, while the free ray shows four new rays. This was cut July, 1902, and the photograph taken February, 1903."

Miss Monks is to be congratulated on having at last produced the experimental evidence demanded by the skepticism of recent writers on the soundness of Haeckel's conclusion[1] reached long ago that "jeder abgelöste Arm [of certain starfishes] reproducirt die *ganze Scheibe* nebst den übrigen Armen."

I have been permitted by Miss Monks to examine all her specimens bearing upon this subject, and have followed her experiments with much interest and deem it but justice to her to say that in reality she has the data for a considerably fuller presentation of the question than would appear from the meager report which has elicited these comments. It is to be sincerely hoped that a fuller, well illustrated account of her observations may be published before long.

WILLIAM E. RITTER.

University of California,
Aug. 22, 1903.

[1] Die Kometenform der Seesterne und der Generationswechsel der Echinodermen. *Zeitsch. wiss. zool.*, Bd. 30, 1878, p. 424.